

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS & CHRONICLE

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Concordia University head football coach Pat Sheahan welcomed prospects as the Stingers opened training camp Friday. The Kirkland native will rely on veterans and some outstanding recruits as the Stingers continue their drive toward national recognition.

Sheahan, in his rookie season as head coach of the Stingers, last year directed them to third place in the O-QIFC and their first playoff appearance in three years. Although Concordia lost to the nationally ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees in the first round of the playoffs, coach Sheahan feels that the loss was a necessary step in the development of a national contender.

"For the majority of our players, the Ottawa game represented their first playoff experience", Sheahan stated. "We had a taste of success last year and hopefully it has made us hungry for more in 1990."

Sheahan and his seven man coaching staff will run two-a-day practices for a week leading up to an **intra-squad scrimmage** on **September 1**. The team will then move to one practice a day as they prepare for their **exhibition opener Saturday, September 8 against Waterloo** (1 p.m. at Loyola). The game will be nationally televised by TSN and Concordia will be hosting a "tailgate" barbecue beginning at 11 a.m.

Sheahan and his staff will use the Waterloo contest to judge the relative strengths of his players and fine tune his troops for the **league opener** against the **Queen's University Golden Gaels**. Concordia will host the defending Ontario-Quebec Interuniversity Football Conference champions on **Sunday, September 16** (1 p.m.). The Waterloo and Queen's games should give Sheahan a good indication of how far his team can go this year.

A major factor for Concordia's success is the play of the defensive secondary which Sheahan insists is one of the finest in the county. Led by a pair of West Islanders, **Ian Ployart** (Pointe Claire, Que.) and **Alvaro Martinez** (Pierrefonds, Que.), the Stingers have five experienced ballhawks returning in the secondary. Ployart, who teamed with Martinez, is a graduate of the North Shore Bronco Football programme and was named a second-team All-Canadian while Martinez was the team's leading tackler. They will join veterans **John Dilegge, Scott Hitchcock** and **Stéphane Chapados** to give Concordia one of the finest defensive backfields in Canada.

Fourth-year quarterback **Ron Aboud** will be responsible for directing the potent Stinger attack. Aboud's leadership and versatility (1058 yds. passing, 116 yds. rushing) will be a major factor in the Stingers' drive for a league title. Aboud will be backed up by **François Trudel**. All-Star **J.F. Héroux** returns to lead a talented crop of running backs. Héroux dazzled opponents last year as he averaged an incredible 7.9 yds. per carry and 15.1 yds. per reception. He was named winner of the Alouette Alumni Trophy presented to Quebec's top university player. Sheahan expects a solid performance from **Nigel Smith** who is entering his second year at fullback after switching from tailback. The offensive line will feature veterans **Jacques Moreau, Paul Vajda, Paul Maines** and **Fred Marquette**.